

From: Jim Cochrane

Sent: May 19, 2021 3:07 PM

To: [Tracy Richardson](#)

Subject: Snowmobile , Bike & ATV trails in Southern Kawartha Lakes

Hi Tracy

Please feel free to forward along my thoughts and concerns. Sorry for this long winded email but I feel that there is a lot more to consider then just whether or not people like myself are for or against a trail system. Also for the record I am all for a legal trail system.

I'd like to start with my concerns regarding the way the HWY 35 trail has been shut down. The only sign that I see that indicates that the trail is shut down is at the car park at Con. #10. From what I am hearing is that if you use this trail , you will be charged. If someone that is not aware of the closure hops on it 1/2 way up the Highway is it really fair that they get fined especially if you consider the fact that all the other signs are still there (stop , speed and slow) . Should there not be signs at every entry point ? Until the old signs are down and new postings are at every entry point should we not just let things be? Just my way of looking at things - if it's against the law then it must be considered a criminal activity. The MTO has been enabling criminal activity for over 30 years now by grooming , maintaining and allowing people to use this trail. Also the police have been allowing the enabling and criminal activity for the same amount of time by turning their heads and ignoring this activity . I can only wonder if this movement to shut down this trail now is because of the plan to widen the highway? Or is there some other political agenda ?

Most of us that run these trails are just trying to have a bit of fun and create memories for our kids and grandchildren. We abide by the rules and respect peoples properties. I know we do have to take short runs on the side roads to get to the trails in this area but again we try to be respectful of the rules of the roads. I feel that the most viable solution for everyone concerned would be to have a legal trail system that goes from the lower Kawartha Lakes to the North. Would it not be more profitable to collect fees for trail passes then to have the police chasing people all over the City to nail them with a fine ? I for one would not have a problem supporting a legal trail system and to share the cost of maintaining and enforcement of such a system.

There is one other thing I would like everyone to ponder. With the world being that way it is now, do the police and the City of Kawartha Lakes really want to be known for being prejudiced against certain groups and not others that are basically breaking the exact same laws. Roads are for specific vehicles that are licenced and insured for that purpose and operated by people that are of age and licenced to do so. For example it is illegal to run snowmobiles , dirt bikes and ATVs on the roads . I believe that it is also illegal for 12, 13, 14 and 15 year olds to run massive farm equipment on the side roads, but they do. Then there`s riding lawn mowers on the roads from time to time as well. I have never heard of anyone getting charged for that. Again roads are for vehicles not

for playing on with bikes and hockey nets etc. These things are also allowed to happen without fines being handed out. If you`re going to start strictly enforcing the rules of the roads for some you should be prepared to do it for all offenders.

Please believe me when I say that I am not opposed to any of the examples that I mentioned above. I am however a believer in equality for all.

Thanks